

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4688

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1022

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK GW

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC OFFICIALS DENOUNCE HAGUE COURT FISHERIES
RULING

1. ICELANDIC POLITICAL LEADERS OF EVERY STRIPE QUICKLY DENOUNCED
YESTERDAY'S HAGUE COURT DECISION THAT DECLARED ICELAND'S
UNILATERAL BAN ON BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN FISHING WITHIN 50
MILES ILLEGAL. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF REACTIONS:

PRIME MINISTER OLAFUR JOHANNESSON SAID DECISION WOULD NOT ALTER
ICELAND'S POLICY. NOTING THAT ICELAND HAD REFUSED IN ADVANCE TO
BE BOUND BY COURT'S RULING, JOHANNESSON SAID, "WE WILL IGNORE
DECISION AS WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID WE WOULD."

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GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, INDEPENDENCE PARTY CHAIRMAN, SAID IT WAS OUT

OF THE QUESTION THAT ICELAND WOULD OBEY RULING. HE SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY DECISION SO OUT OF STEP WITH CURRENT TRENDS IN EVOLUTION OF LAW OF SEA AS EVIDENCED BY DEVELOPMENTS AT CARACAS CONFERENCE.

PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE CHAIRMAN RAGNAR ARNALDS AND FISHERIES MINISTER LUDVIK JOSEFSSON (ALSO PA) STRESSED THEIR VIEW THAT COURT HAD NO JURISDICTION IN MATTER AND SAID RULING CONFIRMED WISDOM OF GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO ARGUE CASE SINCE THIS WOULD HAVE IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED LEGITIMACY OF COURT'S DETERMINATION.

GYLFI GISLASON, CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, SAID RULING WILL NOT AND COULD NOT CHANGE ICELAND'S POLICY ON FISHING LIMITS AS ESTABLISHED BY ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT. REACTING IN SIMILAR TERMS, OLL CHAIRMAN MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE, SAID DECISION OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT CAUSE CHANGE IN GO'S POLICY.

2. ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION THUS FAR IS FROM PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN WHICH SEEKS DOMESTIC POLITICAL GAIN BY ATTACKING BOTH HAGUE DECISION AND INDEPENDENCE PARTY, WHOSE FISHERIES POLICIES, SAYS PAPER, LED TO YESTERDAY'S RULING.
IRVING

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